

**REMARKS**

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated March 17, 2006, having a shortened statutory period set to expire June 17, 2006. Proposed amendments to the Claims include **amending** Claims 1 and 8, **cancelling** Claims 15-20, and **adding** Claims 22-23. Upon entry of the proposed amendments, Claims 1-14 and 21-23 will now be pending.

**Claim Objection**

At paragraph 1 of the present Office Action, the Examiner has objected to the computer program product Claim 15 for the use of the terms "residing" (instead of "stored") and "usable" (instead of "readable"). This claim is presently cancelled, and thus the objection is moot.

**Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102**

At paragraph 21 of the present Office Action, the Examiner has rejected Claim 21 as being anticipated by *Frantz et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,636,929 – "*Frantz*"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

*Frantz* teaches a system in which storage devices on a management console 200 may be used by a managed server 100 via a USB device emulator 180.

*Frantz* does not teach or suggest "disconnecting a USB Storage Device Emulator from the remote bootable computer while the USB Mass Storage Device Interface is reconfigured to show how many storage devices are mounted on the administrative computer and are available for use by the remote bootable computer." The Examiner states that *Frantz* teaches disconnecting a USB Storage Device Emulator by "resetting the port" through the use of USB device emulator application 320 shown in *Frantz's* Figure 3. Applicants disagree.

First, USB device emulator application 320 is NOT a USB Storage Device Emulator, but rather is software that controls the operation of the composite USB function logic 180 (*Frantz*, col. 13, lines 4-5).

Second, *Frantz* never teaches or suggests “disconnecting” a port. Examiner’s reference to “resetting the port” is apparently with regards to the resetting of port 87 by the USB driver 315, which occurs “Once the server processor 25 knows the port 87 to which the new USB peripheral has been installed.” That is, the only time a port is reset in *Frantz* is when a USB device is initially installed. There is no teaching or suggestion of “disconnecting a USB Storage Device Emulator,” either by resetting a port or by any other method, “while the USB Mass Storage Device Interface is reconfigured.”

Since the cited art does not teach or suggest all of the features of Claim 21, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

#### **Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103**

At paragraph 3 of the present Office Action, Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Frantz* in view of *Chan et al.* (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0200428 – “*Chan*”). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections in light of the presently proposed amendments.

As supported by the paragraph [0030] and Figure 3 of U.S. Patent Application Publication US 2005/0182615 A1 (the present invention), exemplary Claim 1, as presently amended, includes the feature of “sending a message, from the first computer to the second computer, that informs the second computer how many mass storage devices are available on the first computer for use by the second computer, wherein the message is sent using a remote disk Java applet on the first computer.” Neither cited prior art teaches or suggests the use of a “remote disk Java applet,” and thus Claims 1-14 should now be allowed.

With reference to newly added Claims 22-23 (which are supported in U.S. Patent Application Publication US 2005/0182615 A1 at paragraphs [0031] to [0032] and Figure 4), the

cited art does not teach or suggest all features claimed therein. More specifically, the combination of the cited art does not teach or suggest "invoking, at the administrative computer, a remote disk Java applet, wherein the remote disk Java applet sends a command, to a USB Mass Storage Device Interface (USB-MSDI) on a bootable computer, indicating how many mass storage devices are mounted on and available to the bootable computer" and "sending, from the USB-MSDI to a USB Storage Device Emulator on the bootable computer, a signal that instructs the USB Storage Device Emulator to disconnect from the bootable computer while the USB-MSDI is being reconfigured" (Claim 22). Furthermore, the combination of the cited art does not teach or suggest that "the emulated mass storage devices are added to the list of drives in response to an operating system of the bootable computer detecting the USB Storage Device Emulator with the emulated mass storage devices" (Claim 23). Thus, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of these claims.

**CONCLUSION**

Having complied with the suggestions of the Examiner, Applicants now respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

Applicant further respectfully requests the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney of record at 512.617.5533 if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the present Application.

No extension of time for this response is believed to be necessary. However, in the event an extension of time is required, that extension of time is hereby requested. Please charge any fee associated with an extension of time as well as any other fee necessary to further the prosecution of this application to **IBM CORPORATION DEPOSIT ACCOUNT No. 50-0563**.

Respectfully submitted,



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